

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title that appears at page 1 of the specification with the following title:

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LANE AND
FRONT-END PLANNING AND DESIGN ANALYSIS**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 2 that starts with the words "The present invention claims" with the following paragraph:

The present invention claims priority from a provisional application Serial No. ~~60/451,269~~ 60/151,629, filed on August 31, 1999, entitled "Management Decision Modeling Software Applications" which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety into this specification. The present application is related to the application Serial No. 09/653,195, entitled "Branch Effectiveness Model Application" filed on ~~even date herewith (NCR Docket No. 8320)~~ August 31, 2000, now abandoned, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety into the present specification.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 20, line 6, with the following paragraph:

Figure 2 5 shows the selection of the Front-end Model 1 (store checkout 512) and the Default Scenario 532. The User does not have to select a scenario before selecting a Create Scenarios button 550. The User will have the opportunity to select a scenario from which to create a new scenario on a Create Parameter File form 600 discussed

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below. The User can select an Edit Scenarios button 560, a Delete Scenarios button 565, a Return to Main Menu button 570, a Print Scenario button 575, a Run Simulation button 580, and a Check Box 585. If the User wants to run a simulation model with animation, check (i.e., click the left button on your mouse while positioned over the Check Box 585) the Animation Box before selecting the Run Simulation button 580.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 20, line 28, with the following paragraph:

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Appendix A lists Model Default Scenario Parameter Values for a Lane and Front End Model. Appendix B is the Model Output from the Default Scenarios for a Lane and Front End Model. The User can create a new scenario file by selecting the Create Scenario button 550 from the Input Module 410. Figure 6 depicts the Create Parameter File Form 600. To create a scenario, the User selects the existing file that the User wants to create the new file from in the list of scenarios in the center of the Create Parameter File form 600. A scroll bar (not shown) will display to the right of the list when there are more than four scenarios for a model. A name for a new scenario is entered by positioning the cursor in a Scenario Name field ~~610~~ 620 and by using the keyboard to type in the name. The LFEM module does not allow duplicate scenario names for a simulation model. The Scenario Name can be up to 50 characters (including blank spaces). The User can also enter an optional Scenario Description in the Scenario Description field ~~620~~ 630 of up to 55 characters to further describe the parameter file.

Please replace the ~~paragraph~~ starting at page 25, line 27, with the following paragraph:

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The remaining category is the Model Parameters category. There are only three parameters in this category for each model. They are "Number of replications", "Stream number identifier", and "Check input option identifier". In most applications, the User will not need to change the values of these parameters. If the User wishes more precision in the model's estimates of the mean performance measures, the User should increase the value of "Number of replications". ~~We~~ It is recommend that the User does not reduce the value of this parameter below 30 when using the model results to make inferences about the checkstand or front-end design. Changing the value of the "Stream number identifier" will run the scenario using a different sequence of random numbers. Finally, the "Check input option identifier" specifies whether or not the parameter values for a scenario file are written to a file: e.g. c:\Arena Viewer\SSL\SSLChk.out (or c:\Arena Viewer\LFEM\LFEMChk.out). The purpose of this file is to verify input parameter values for technical support.

Please replace the ~~paragraph~~ starting at page 25, line 26, with the following paragraph:

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Each time the User enters this form, an edit table displays the full set of parameters in the DID. The edit table includes a Parameter column 850, a Value column 855, a Range column 860 and a description column 865. The User can use the scroll bar 815 to the right of edit table 810 to browse through the full set. Alternatively, the User can view only a subset of the parameters corresponding to a particular category by

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clicking on a category button in a Parameter Categories section 820. The Parameter Categories section are represented by buttons including Transaction Itemization 822, Transaction Finalization 824, Transaction Bagging 826, Transaction Intervention 828, Configuration 830, Customer demand 832, Schedules 834 and Model Parameters 836. To view a subset of parameters that correspond to a lane type (F-Fast-Track, E-Express, R-Regular, and All – All Parameters), click on a button in the Lane Type section 845.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 30, line 19, with the following paragraph:

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After the User finishes editing the values in this form, the User can select one of two options, either Print Schedule button 1260 or a Return to Edit form 1265. The Print Schedule button ~~1268~~ 1260 creates a report containing the schedules for all five parameters by time of day and displays it on the screen. The User can then send the report to a printer or save it to a file in a variety of data formats.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 32, line 16, with the following paragraph:

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There are three options from this form: a Return to Main Menu button 1570, a Print Scenario button 1575 and a Run Simulation button ~~5580~~ 1580. The first button 1570 will return the User to the main menu. The Print Scenario button 1575 will generate a report containing a model's DID and display it on the screen. Figure 15 illustrates the DID report for the FEM1 model. The User can then send the report to a printer, save the report to a disk file, or close the report and return to the Run Simulation

B⁸ Model form. The Run Simulation button 1580 will start running the model and scenario selected in the Models 1510 and Scenarios 1530 tables of this form.

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 34, line 20 with the words "Figures 27-32".

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph that begins at page 34, lines 23 and starts with the words "In the analysis mode":

B⁹ The screen views for the other three models, LaneM1, LaneM2, and LaneM3, are similar to the views for model FEM1, and are not shown or described herein in detail.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 35, line 11, with the following paragraph:

As depicted in Figure 22, when the model completes all the replications, the LFEM module will display a window to ask if you would like to see the results.

B¹⁰ Selecting ~~Yes~~ "Yes" will cause the LFEM module to display the output Module form ~~500~~ 2300. Selecting ~~No~~ "No" will cause the LFEM module to display to the Run Simulation Module form 1500.

Delete the section beginning at page 42 line 10 that begins with the words "The bars at the top" and ends at page 42, line 15, with the words "of Figure 4".

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph that starts at page 42, line 16 that begins with the words "The basic concept":

Five rectangles at the top of Figure 30 indicate the four lane types, with one lane type comprising two separate options that are available in the model. The types of lanes available in the model include self-service ("SS"), regular ("Reg"), and express ("Exp"). The remaining lane type, the convertible self checkout type (SCOT) lane, may be configured as self service ("AS-SS") or as operator assist ("AS-OA") lanes.